

*C. Abbott*



AUGUSTA, MAINE, THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 24, 1852.

NO. 26.

#### HORSE-SHOING.

Many horses are injured by carelessness or improper management in shoeing. To learn how to fit a shoe accurately to the horse's foot, so that it shall properly protect the foot, and at the same time avoid the liability to injure it, is no mean acquisition. The smith, to conduct his business properly, should have an accurate knowledge of the anatomy, physiology and pathology of the horse's foot, and then he will perform the operation of shoeing not merely as though he was nailing a piece of iron to a block of wood, but with all the care and nicely which the living structure requires. We have some skillful smiths, who have knowledge and judgment enough so that our horses may be safely committed to them whenever they require shoeing; but more such men are needed. Some hints on this subject, from those who have the knowledge and experience, would doubtless be acceptable and useful to our readers.

Henry Griswold, of Farmington, Conn., who for twenty years has followed the business of shoeing and farriery, makes the following remarks on this subject, which we copy from the Boston Cultivator:

"The feet of horses differ so much, that it requires great judgment, and a thorough knowledge of their anatomical structure, to shoe each horse in a manner best calculated to promote the intentions of nature. Smiths generally pare the heel too much, or rather, do not pare the toe enough; the reason is, that it is so much harder to cut."

When the horse stands upon the foot, the heel is so much lower than it should be, that the cords of the leg are strained; so, after a night's rest, the legs are stiff and sore, and the horse moves very awkwardly. This sometimes is attributed to founder, when in reality it is caused by nothing but bad shoeing. Frequently the toe is burnt off. This is also injurious, for so far as the heat penetrates, the life of the hoof, and the only matter which gives toughness are destroyed, and the hoof becomes brittle, and liable to crack. Care should be taken to see that the points of the nails are free from defects, for sometimes, after the nail has entered the hoof, it splits, and a part penetrates the quick, causing lameness."

#### RUST OR MILDEW IN WHEAT.

A correspondent of the Boston Cultivator, D. L. Harvey, of Epping, N. H., furnishes the following remarks relative to the rust or mildew on wheat. His theory appears to be supported by facts, and corresponds very nearly with that advanced by a correspondent in the second volume of the Maine Farmer.

"The rust or mildew on wheat is caused by a slight drought and a sudden rain, and the sun coming out hot immediately after, without wind, when the wheat berry is two-thirds full, when it gives the wheat such an impetus, that it splits the stalk of the grain, which causes the sap to ooze out, and finally stops the growth of the berries. After this takes place, any person will notice that the spots on the stalk are all lengthwise of the stalk, and by taking a sharp knife, he will find that the stalk is split open. Now the grain must be about two-thirds full to have this take place, and at no other stage of its growth."

We believe that manuring with new, unrotted manure will increase the evil, because it begins to work when the grain needs it the least, in the hot, sultry weather of July and August. It is sure for a good crop of wheat, to well dress the land the year previous, or dress that spring, with old, well-rotted manure, and sow as soon as the soil is ready to admit it, if possible, to avoid all the dog day weather we can. I have known forward pieces to yield a first rate crop, and others on an adjoining farm, which were sown later, to be worthless on the same kind of soil, with equally good treatment.

These improvements are well worth the examination of farmers who have such lands as they wish to put into the best state for successful cultivation, or who like to see the effects of judicious and thorough underdraining.

MILDewed GOOSEBERRIES.

A friend has left at our office a branch of a gooseberry bush, well furnished with fruit, but very badly mildewed, and wishes to know what the remedy or preventive is for this trouble. Free circulation of air, and exposure to the light of the sun is a good preventive. While a warm, close moist situation is more apt to induce the disease than the reverse. Salt or flowers of sulphur, sprinkled about the roots, is a good preventive, and some gardeners have recommended common salt hay, from salt marshes (where it can be obtained) as a preventive, if applied about the roots of the bushes early in spring. Perhaps common hay soaked in brine may answer the same purpose. Cole, in his fruit book, says, "to prevent mildew and produce good crops, select a cool soil and airy situation. Cultivate well and deeply; prune well. Lay salt hay, seaweed or other litter, with one or two quarts of fine salt to a square rod around the bushes. Lime and sulphur, incorporated into the surface soil are good preventives against mildew. When by a white-washed fence or wall they are not so liable to mildew. Woods ashes, sifted on when the leaves are just out, and once or twice after, is also good against mildew. Spend tan around the bushes is said to prevent the effects of gooseberry caterpillars that are sometimes destructive."

PROSPECT FOR FRUIT.

It may be rather early in the season to prophesy in regard to the fruit crop, but the appearances now are, that we shall have a great crop of apples. The season during the blossoming of the crop was favorable.

In the first place, there was an immense bloom. In the next place, the weather was dry, and the sun bright, which caused a thorough maturing of the pollen which impregnates the fruit, so that there is an abundance of apples set, and if one in ten hold till it gets ripe, there will be a great crop. October will tell the story.

It is stated that carrots are worth as much per bushel, as oats, for horses, with dry food—feeding alternately, one day with carrots and one day with oats.

#### IMPROVE THE DROUGHT.

All times and seasons have their appropriate work, but the accidental extremes of seasons, such as the very wet or the very dry, can also be taken advantage of, and work of particular kinds done in them to better advantage than in other times. During this dry time, those who have the means will have a rare opportunity to dig wells and drains and ditches,—to dig muck, and have it ready to haul to the barn yard,—to clear swamps and bogs,—and to do many other things which would be very difficult to do in an extremely wet season. Cultivate well and deeply; prune well. Lay salt hay, seaweed or other litter, with one or two quarts of fine salt to a square rod around the bushes. Lime and sulphur, incorporated into the surface soil are good preventives against mildew. When by a white-washed fence or wall they are not so liable to mildew. Woods ashes, sifted on when the leaves are just out, and once or twice after, is also good against mildew. Spend tan around the bushes is said to prevent the effects of gooseberry caterpillars that are sometimes destructive."

AGRICULTURAL MACHINES.

The Executive Committee of the New York State Agricultural Society have resolved greatly to enlarge their premises, and to appoint a meeting during the ensuing harvest, some time between the 10th and 25th of July, for a thorough trial of such machines and implements as may be offered.

The trial is to take place on the farm of Horace D. Bennett, of Geneva. Premiums ranging from fifty to five dollars, are offered for Grain Reaper, Mowing Machine, Portable Steam Engine, for Farming purposes, Gauged Grain Drill, Horse Powers, for general purposes, Flax and Hemp Dressing Machine, Thresher to be used with horse or steam power, Seed Sower, for horse or hand power, for hills or drills, Cultivator, for general purposes, and Broad Cast Sower.

The improvements that have been made, within a few years, in agricultural implements and machines, are truly encouraging; and we are glad to see that the New York Society, with characteristic liberality, has made arrangements for carefully testing their merits, under the direction of a competent committee, thus bringing them into more general notice and use among farmers.

To RESTORE HORSES.

In warm weather, the brine on pork frequently becomes sour and the pork tainted. Boil the brine, skim it well, and pour it back on the meat boiling hot. This will restore it, even where it is considerably injured.

#### DIP THE PORK.

Dip the points of cut nails into oil or grease if you wish to drive them into hard, dry wood without their bending.

#### BREEDING OF LIVE STOCK.

The Editor of the Michigan Farmer states, that on a farm 15 miles north of London, a crop of wheat was nearly ready for harvest, which fully promised sixty bushels per acre. It was as high as a man's head, stood thick, and the heads long; the land was at first poor, but was brought up by draining and manuring mostly with stable manure.

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# THE MAINE FARMER: AN



R. EATON, Proprietor. | E. HOLMES, Editor.

AUGUSTA:  
THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 24, 1852.

## NATIONAL CONVENTIONS.

The idea of holding National Conventions for the nomination of President and Vice President, and then binding the respective parties which nominate to vote for the nominee, is of modern date. It never entered into the minds of the framers of the Constitution, and for years and years, was not heard of. It is true that, according to the strict definition of democracy, the people should govern by assembling themselves together, but as this was not always possible or convenient, an improvement was made on this mode by smaller assemblies of the people meeting and choosing one or more of their number to represent them, and delegating to him or them power to act for them, and binding them selves to submit to their doings.

In this way National Conventions are made up, and if mankind would be honest and upright, and act with a single eye to the good of the whole community, and not be biased by selfish love of office and party prejudice, the system would work well enough. Still it is not according to the spirit and letter of the Constitution. The framers of that did not contemplate any such operations. They simply provided that each State should choose electors, and those electors, at their meeting, should select good men for the offices of President and Vice President, and vote them in. They did not contemplate any selection of candidates by the people in their popular or conventional assemblies prior to the choosing of electors, and then those electors chosen in reference to these candidates, and with pledges that they should at all events vote for them. As things are managed now, electors are in reality of no use—indeed, the whole work of choosing them and sending them to vote for the men selected months before hand by a National Convention, is a mere useless and burthensome form.

It would be better, if the system of National Conventions is to be kept up, to change the Constitution so as to allow each voter to vote directly for President and Vice President—that is, to allow them to put the names of those they desire to hold these offices into the ballot box. This he could do with as much ease as can vote for somebody to go to the State House, and put in a vote for them, the man he wishes for President, and then send a special messenger to Washington with these votes to be counted there. One system or the other ought to be abolished, as they both together make too much machinery and useless formality.

## LIFE INSURANCE.

We invite the attention of our readers to the advertisement in another column, of the United States Life Insurance, Annuity and Trust Company, and take pleasure in expressing our full belief in the great utility and almost incalculable benefits afforded to all classes by this admirable system of life insurance. We are aware that there is, in some minds, a prejudice against some companies, owing, perhaps, to injudicious and improper management; but a safe and sound life insurance company may be regarded as a truly benevolent institution, wisely adapted to meet the wants of all who seek to promote the interests of their own families, by providing for their future comfort and support. He who avails himself of the temporary benefits of insurance against fire, will find it difficult to evade the arguments and claims of his family, and the moral obligation which imposes upon him the responsibility of securing for them the available provision of a policy of life insurance.

The Company above mentioned is based upon the English plan of cash payments, exclusively,—avoiding all the liability to loss involved in the credit system, and is worthy a fair examination by all who feel an interest in extending the benefits afforded by Life Insurance. See advertisement.

**LAMSON'S PATENT SCYTHE STICK.** There is no end to improvements, and when one Yankee makes an improvement, another Yankee stands ready to give it still another. Last week we made a notice of Kimball & Sons' improved scythe snaths. Since then we have had the pleasure of examining another one, invented by Mr. Lamson, and manufactured by Lamson, Goodnow & Co., of Shelburn Falls, Mass. This is a very ingenious contrivance, and what makes it peculiarly acceptable is that any scythe, can be fitted into it with all ease, while, by means of turning a nut on the side of the stick, it may be held in as firm as the hills. Instead of pounding and tinkering a half hour with hammer and lead rings and a handful of wedges, as in the old system, all you have to do is to place your scythe in the socket and fasten two or three turns with a light wrench upon the nut, and it is all done—fixed firm and tight and solid. Mr. E. D. Preston is the traveling Agent, and will dispose of them to you reasonably, or you will find them at Ormsby's, first door north of the Stanley House. They are a prime article—no mistake.

**NEW FLAX FACTORY.** We see by the last Ploughman, that a new factory is building in Fall River, for the purpose of manufacturing linen articles from foreign flax. We suppose, of course, they must manufacture foreign flax for a while; but we hope the time will be not far distant when they will be able to find a supply of that article of home growth. All that is necessary to bring about the extensive culture of flax in the United States is a permanent market at a remunerating price. The establishment of flax manufacturing mills is the only way to bring this about, and we care not how soon it is done. The factory in Fall River is to be under the direction of N. B. Borden, Esq.

**EXHIBITION AT READFIELD SEMINARY.** Our previous engagements were such that it was next to impossible to be present at the examination and exhibition at the Wesleyan Seminary at Readfield, last week, and are therefore not able to give any account of it from personal observation. We have been informed by those present that the performances, both at the examination and exhibition were excellent, and that the institution still keeps up its system of successful instruction and salutary discipline, and continues to fulfil its duties of usefulness to the community.

**"PEAS UPON THE TRENCHER."** Our friend and neighbor, F. Wingate, Esq., of this city, brought into our office, on Monday last, evidence of his thrifty crop of peas, in the cultivation of which he is very successful. Success to him and his pea vines.

## WHIG NATIONAL CONVENTION.

The National Convention of the Whig party for the nomination of candidates for President and Vice President, assembled at Baltimore on Wednesday of last week. The Convention was preliminarily organized by the choice of Hon. Geo. Evans, of Maine, as Chairman. Hon. G. Chapman, of Maryland, was chosen President of the Convention, with one Vice President for each State. The delegates from the Southern States held a caucus, on Wednesday morning, in which a platform was unanimously adopted, embracing the compromise, in all its parts, as a finality. This platform was then sent to the delegates from the Northern States, who were in favor of the nomination of Daniel Webster, who replied that it met their warm and cordial approbation. In the Convention, it was referred to the committee on resolutions, consisting of one member from each State. Mr. Ashmun, of Mass., from the committee, afterwards reported a series of resolutions, which, he said, were adopted in committee with very great thoroughness with entire unanimity. These resolutions are substantially the same as those adopted by the Southern caucus. The following is a synopsis of the resolutions:

The first declares that the General Government is a government of limited powers, and denies the right for it to exercise powers not expressed or granted in the Constitution.

The second is in relation to the rights of States.

The third protests against the doctrine of intervention.

The fourth states that, as the people make and control the Government, they should obey its constitutional laws and traditions, and then retain their self-government, and the right which they claim to will and enforce from foreign powers.

The fifth is in favor of an economical administration of the Government, and a tariff for the revenue which will give encouragement to all branches of industry in every section of the country.

The sixth is in favor of the adoption of a system of river and harbor improvements by the General Government.

The seventh and eighth are as follows:

&c. &c. The Federal and State Governments are to promote prosperity, peace and security, and ought to be regarded alike with a cordial, habitual and immovable attachment. Respect for the authority of each, and acquiescence in the just constitutional measures of each, are duties required by the plainest considerations of national, state, and individual welfare.

Eighth. That the series of acts of the 31st Congress, the act known as the fugitive slave law included, are acquiesced in by the white party in the United States, as a settlement in principle and in practice, and exacting quietus, which it embraces, and so far as the law is concerned we will maintain and insist upon their strict enforcement until time and experience shall demonstrate the necessity of further legislation to guard against the evasion of the law on the one hand, of their powers on the other,—not impairing their present efficiency, and we deprecate all further agitators of the questions thus settled as dangerous to our peace, and will disown all efforts to renew such agitation, whenever, wherever and however the attempt may be made, and we will maintain this system as essential to the nationality of national, state, and individual welfare.

Crops in Wisconsin. The Milwaukee Sentinel of 7th gives a highly encouraging view of the grain crops in Wisconsin. In the region through which the Milwaukee and Mississippi Railroad passes, the winter wheat looks better than it has done in any previous year.

**McCormick's Reapers.** The Chicago Journal states that Mr. McCormick has sent out 581 reapers, and mowing machines, from that city, the present season. One was sent to Germany, one to Alabama, one hundred to "the Jerseys," and one to El Dorado.

**Munificent Gift.** Geo. Peabody, Esq., the eminent London banker, has given to the town of Danvers which is his native place, the munificent sum of twenty thousand dollars for the establishment of a lyceum and library, and erection of the necessary buildings.

**Maine—4 nautical miles;** New Hampshire—5 years; Vermont—5 years; Massachusetts—13 years; Rhode Island—4 years; Connecticut—11 years; I. not voting, 1 year; New York—11 years, 92 days; New Jersey—8 years; Pennsylvania—21 years, 6 nautical miles; Delaware—3 years; Maryland—8 years; Virginia—14 years; North Carolina—10 years; South Carolina—8 years; Georgia—10 years; Alabama—9 years; Ohio—8 years; 15 nautical miles; Kentucky—12 years; Tennessee—12 years; Indiana—7 years; Illinois—6 years; 5 nautical miles; Missouri—3 years; Arkansas—4 years; Michigan—4 years; Wisconsin—4 years; California—1 year; total 236, 94 nautical miles.

The question on the adoption of this platform was taken by States, and it was adopted as follows:

Maine—4 years; New Hampshire—5 years; Vermont—5 years; Massachusetts—13 years; Rhode Island—4 years; Connecticut—11 years; I. not voting, 1 year; New York—11 years, 92 days; New Jersey—8 years; Pennsylvania—21 years, 6 nautical miles; Delaware—3 years; Maryland—8 years; Virginia—14 years; North Carolina—10 years; South Carolina—8 years; Georgia—10 years; Alabama—9 years; Ohio—8 years; 15 nautical miles; Kentucky—12 years; Tennessee—12 years; Indiana—7 years; Illinois—6 years; 5 nautical miles; Missouri—3 years; Arkansas—4 years; Michigan—4 years; Wisconsin—4 years; California—1 year; total 236, 94 nautical miles.

The balloting for candidate for President commenced on Friday evening. On the first ballot Winfield Scott had 133 votes; Millard Fillmore, 131; Daniel Webster, 29. There were six ballottings on Friday evening, with but little difference in the results. The balloting was continued through the following day, without effecting a choice. After the 46th ballot, there being no material change, or any indication of compromise or union, the convention adjourned until Monday.

**Scott and Webster.** Winfield Scott was born near Petersburgh, Virginia, June 13th, 1786, and therefore just 66 years old. Daniel Webster, was born at Salisbury, N. H., January 18, 1782, and is now in his 71st year.

**Railroad in Difficulty.** The Preston and Longridge Railway in England has been closed in consequence of the locomotive power, carriages and rolling stock being seized by the sheriff and sold under execution.

**British Gum.**

A friend enquired of us the other day, "what sticky stuff is it on the back of postage stamps, that makes them adhere so closely to the letters?" We suppose it is what is called British gum.

It is the substance with which the British postage stamps are covered, as gum arabic would be too expensive.

And what is British gum? It is made from starch, and the starch is made from the potato; so that in fact you are sticking your postage stamps on with potatoes.

But how is this British gum made? It is made from starch, which is heated to brownness and then mingled with water. The discovery of this fact has been prevailing in New England.

**Vegetables from Bermuda.** New potatoes, onions, and tomatoes are in the Boston market, in six days from Bermuda.

**Richer than Gold.** The north-west lead mines have been and are more productive of wealth than any surface of equal area in California. Their average annual yield is 41,000,000 of pounds. The amount shipped from one place within twelve years has been 458,997,251 lbs., valued at \$18,392,885.

**Barn burst.** We learn from the Bath Mirror, that during a heavy shower on Monday morning, a barn on the Brunswick road, about three miles from the town, was struck by lightning, and entirely consumed.

**Convention.** A portion of the Democrats of Oxford Co. have issued a circular, calling a State Convention to nominate a candidate for Governor. Some fifteen hundred names are appended to the circular, and the name of the Post Office, Letter A. No. 2, Oxford Co., has been changed to Grafton.

**Editor's Table.**

**Graham's MAGAZINE FOR JULY.** This number of Graham, like all of his others, is a good one—indeed, when did Graham ever send out anything else but a good one! The embossments are of the first style of art, and the etchings from the various correspondents are full of merit and genius.

**LITERARY MUSEUM.** They have put Dodge into the Museum at last, or rather he has put himself in by purchasing that sterling literary paper, the "Boston Museum," and becoming Editor, Proprietor, and all hands. The title of the paper has been changed to "Literary Museum," and with a new head and shoulders, it is bound to continue an acceptable visitor to all who patronise it.

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**Ordination.** Rev. M. W. Willis was ordained as Pastor of the Unitarian Society in Bath, on Wednesday of last week. Sermon by Rev. S. R. Lohrhop.

**Post Offices.** A new Post Office has been established at West Corinth, Penobscot Co., and Isaiah Lincoln, Esq., been appointed postmaster. The name of the Post Office, Letter A. No. 2, Oxford Co., has been changed to Grafton.

**Insane Woman Killed.** Mrs. Nancy Howes, herself before the cars at Needham on Friday evening, 11th inst., and was killed. She was 64 years old, the wife of Capt. Isaiah Howes, and is buried in her mind.

**Kentucky Bank bills.** The Louisville Courier of the 3d inst., states that the genuine plates of the bank have been changed to "Literary Museum," and with a new head and shoulders, it is bound to continue an acceptable visitor to all who patronise it.

**Census of Austria.** The population of the Austrian Empire numbers 36,514,446 souls, which gives, on an average, 3,154 to an Austrian square mile. Lombardy is the most populous province; it contains 6,267 inhabitants per square mile; the country of Salzburg, which is the least populous, has 171.

**Damages recovered.** The widow of Dr. Flanders has recovered, under a statute of 1849, against the town of Sheffield, Vt., \$1000 damages, for the death of her husband by the upsetting of a stage, in which he was a passenger, some more than a year since; on account, as was alleged, of the narrowness of the road.

**Dueling.** A fatal duel was fought on the 2d inst., at Fort Mello, Fla., between Col. Gordon and Major Jones, of Hopkins. They fought with Bowie knives. Major Jones was killed. Subsequently, Col. Gordon went to the 20th of November, and surrendered himself to the officers of justice.

**Telegraph business.** It is just seven years since the telegraphic line was completed between New York and Washington. Since then about 14,000 miles of telegraphic lines have been put up the United States. The associated press in New York, numbering 7 morning papers, pay about \$70,000 per annum, for news over the various lines leading to that city.

**Foxes.** Mr. Joel Preston, of South Hadley, Mass., recently dug out of a "fox burrow" in that town, sixteen young foxes, in looking for old ones.

**LIQUOR BILL IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.** The liquor bill passed the House of Representatives, on Friday forenoon, by a vote of 172 to 105. It was proposed to submit the bill to the people on the day of the Presidential election, and if ratified by their votes, it was to go into effect on the 20th of November. In the Senate the bill was postponed to the fall session, and the opinion of the Judges of the Superior Court was asked as to the constitutionality of its provisions. The Legislature adjourned on Saturday, to meet again on the 17th of November.

**WILTON SCYTHES.** There is a scythe factory in Wilton which turns out some first rate work. It is carried on by Mr. Keyes, and he intends to furnish farmers with the very best scythe in all Yankee land. The North Waynes must look out lest Keyes mows around them. Kelley & May, of Windham, are sole agents in their vicinity for these scythes, and as the grass this season will probably be shorter than common, and farmers be anxious to shave closer, we refer them to the aforesaid firm for the tool that will do it.

**A SLICE OF CHEESE.** The cheese sent to the office by Mrs. Nathaniel Robinson was excellent to the taste, and rich in quality. It went down first rate, but rather fast.

## GATHERED NEWS FRAGMENTS, &c.

**Liberal Donation.** We understand that Daniel W. Lord, Esq., of Kennebunkport has recently given the sum of two thousand dollars to Bowdoin College. This donation, which is designed for the benefit of young men pursuing an education there, will add to the other facilities and encouragements enjoyed at this prosperous Institution.

**Great Fire.** A fire occurred at Wetumpka, Alabama, on Saturday, June 12th. It commenced in an old ware house, and in two hours' time the business part of East Wetumpka, was destroyed. Loss estimated at between \$500,000 and \$400,000, with but \$30,000 insurance.

**Middlesex Canal discontinued.** The Middlesex Canal has been discontinued, and is nearly dry, water not having been let on this season. The work of filling up has been commenced in several places.

**Mortality in New York city.** From statistics recently published, it appears that the whole number of deaths, from all causes, in the city of New York, during the year 1851, was twenty-two thousand and twenty-four.

**Masonic celebration.** The Masonic fraternity throughout the United States propose to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the initiation of Washington into the Fredericksburg Lodge in Virginia, which anniversary occurs on the 4th of November next.

**First trials.** The first trials of the Whigs for the nomination of candidates for President and Vice President, assembled at Baltimore on Wednesday of last week. The Convention was preliminarily organized by the choice of Hon. Geo. Evans, of Maine, as Chairman. Hon. G. Chapman, of Maryland, was chosen President of the Convention, with one Vice President for each State. The delegates from the Southern States held a caucus, on Wednesday morning, in which a platform was unanimously adopted, embracing the compromise, in all its parts, as a finality. This platform was then sent to the delegates from the Northern States, who were in favor of the nomination of Daniel Webster, for each State. The delegates from the Southern States held a caucus, on Wednesday morning, in which a platform was unanimously adopted, embracing the compromise, in all its parts, as a finality. This platform was then sent to the delegates from the Northern States, who were in favor of the nomination of Daniel Webster, for each State.

**Arrival of the Prometheus.** The steamer Prometheus, from San Juan del Norte, arrived at New York at 7 o'clock Monday morning with 450 passengers and a small amount of gold dust.

The Prometheus brings dates from San Francisco of the 19th May—one day later—but the papers are very barren of news.

Josiah Rupp, S. Tilley, Capt. Beebe, and Luke Schroeder, passengers on the Prometheus, died at sea.

The steamer Monumental City arrived at Sacramento City, May 17th, from San Juan del Sur, with 450 passengers. Fourteen passengers died on the voyage.

The Pacific sailed on the 18th for San Juan, with 374 passengers. The Golden Gate from Panama, with the passengers for Illinois, had not arrived at San Francisco on the 19th.

**INDEPENDENCE OF SAN JUAN GUARANTEED.**

On the 24 of June, the British war steamer Almirante arrived at San Juan del Norte with the Admiral of the West India station, who notified the authorities that the Governments of Great Britain and the United States had agreed to guarantee the independence of San Juan.

Com. Parker of the Saracen, whose the British

Commander expected to meet at Greytown,

had not arrived, but there was no doubt of his



# THE MAINE FARMER: AN

The Muse.

For the Maine Farmer.  
REFLECTIONS,  
While visiting a Rural Vale, surrounded by Mountain Scenery.

By L. W. MOWER.

While in fair nature's book I gaze,  
I trace the power which God displays,  
Where flowers mew sweet odors shed,  
And mountains rear their lofty heads.  
It is with true delight I view  
Each lovely landscape, where old Brie  
Is seen from all the country round,  
That's now with vernal beauty crowned.  
While dwelling in this quiet vale,  
The mountain breezes we inhale  
Import fresh vigor, life and health—  
More valued, far, than hoarded wealth.  
These towering mountains, as they stand  
In giant ranks, on either hand,  
Appeal, to our deluded eye,  
To reach the aye vault on high.  
They're stoned, as proofs of God's own might,  
Since first he said, "let there be light!"  
While time shall last they will surround  
This lovely dell, with verdure crowned.  
From then the sparkling streamlets glide  
That dance along the green hill-side,  
And water all the plains around,  
As to their ocean home they're bound.  
Though some, perhaps, may think it strange  
That we should o'er these landscapes range,  
And feel such grand emotions rise,  
When towering mountains greet our eyes;  
And many seek a foreign shore,  
Or trace the western prairies o'er;  
But I would love a home like this—  
"T'would form a part of earthly bliss.  
Such monuments of sovereign power  
Of cheer me in life's stormy hour;  
And while upon this earthly sod  
They'll raise my thoughts to nature's God.

July, June, 1852.

For the Farmer.

TRUE FRIENDSHIP.

By VIOLA.

When the heart is sad and lonely,  
And the spirit sinks within,  
How soft to the weary  
Is the voice of friendship, then.  
When troubles come upon us,  
And sorrows weigh us down,  
The voice of true affection  
Is worth the monarch's crown.  
But when the soul is weary  
Of all things here below,  
And to the very bottom  
We drain the cup of woe.  
Oh, then, how boldly cheering  
To know we have a friend!—  
A happy home in heaven,  
When time with us shall end.

The Story-Celler.

From Dickens' Household Words.

A TERRIBLY STRANGE BED.

Shortly before the period when gambling-houses were suppressed by the French Government, I was about to stay at Paris with an English friend. We were both young men then, and I am afraid, a very dissipated life, in the very dissipate city of our sojourn. One night, we were idling about the neighborhood of the Palais Royal, doubtful of what amusement we should next beset ourselves. My friend proposed a visit to Frascati's; but his suggestion was not my taste. I knew Frascati's as the French saying is, by heart; had lost and won plenty of five-franc pieces there, "merely for the fun of the thing," until it was "fun" no longer; and was thoroughly tired, in fact, of all the ghastly regularities of such a social anomaly as a respectable gambling-house. "For Heaven's sake," said I to my friend, "let us go somewhere where we can see a little genuine, blackguard, poverty-stricken gaming, with no false gingerbread glitter thrown over it at all. Let us get away from fashionable Frascati's, to a house where they don't mind letting in a man with a ragged coat, or a man with no coat, ragged or otherwise."

"Very well," said my friend, "we needn't go out of the Palais Royal to find the sort of company you want. Here's the place, just before us; as blackguard a place, by all report, as you could possibly wish to see."

In another minute we arrived at the door, and entered the house, the back of which you have drawn in your sketch.

When we got up-stairs, and had left our hats and sticks with the doorman, we were admitted into the chief gambling-room. We did not find many people assembled there. But, few the men who looked up at us on our entrance, they were all types—miserable types—of their respective classes. We had come to see blackguards; but these men were something worse. There is a comic side, more or less appreciable, in all blackguardism—here, there was nothing but tragedy; mute, weird tragedy. The quiet in the room was horrible. The thin, haggard, long-haired young man, whose sunken eyes fiercely watched the turning up of the cards, never spoke; the flabby, fat-faced, plump player, who picked his piece of paste-board perseveringly, to register how often black, and how often red—never spoke; the dirty, wrinkled old man, with the vulture eyes, and the dented great coat, who had lost his last sou, and still looked on desperately after he could play no longer—never spoke. Even the voice of the croupier sounded as if it were strangely dulled and thickened in the atmosphere of the room. I had entered the place to laugh; I felt that if I stood quietly looking on much longer, I should be more likely to weep. So to excite myself out of the depression of spirits which was fast stealing over me, I unfortunately went to the table, and began to play. Still more unfortunately, as the event will show, I won—won prodigiously; won incredibly; won at such a rate, that the regular players at the table crowded round me; and staring at my stakes with hungry, supine eyes, whispered to one another, that the English stranger was going to break the bank.

The game was *Rouge et Noir*. I had played at it in every city in Europe, without, however, the care or wish to study the theory of Chances—that philosopher's stone of all gamblers! And a gambler, in the strict sense of the word, I had never been. I was heart-whole from the corrodin passion for play. My gaming was a mere idle amusement. I never resorted to it by necessity, because I never knew what it was to want money. I never practised it so incessantly as to lose more than I could afford, or to gain more than could my good luck. In short, I had hitherto frequented gambling-tables—just as I frequented ball-rooms and opera-houses—because they amused me, and because I had nothing better to do with my leisure hours.

But, on this occasion, it was very different—now, for the first time in my life, I felt that the passion for play really was. My success first bewildered, and then, in the most literal meaning of the word, intoxicated me. Incredibly as it may appear, it is nevertheless true, that I only lost, when I attempted to estimate chances, and played according to previous calculation. If I

left everything to luck, and staked without any care or consideration, I was sure to win—to win in the face of every recognized probability in favor of the bank. At first some of the more present ventured their money safely enough on my color; but I speedily increased my stakes to sums which they dared not risk. One after another they left off playing, and breathlessly looked on at my game. Still, time after time, I staked higher and higher, and still won. The excitement in the room rose to a fever pitch. The silence was interrupted by a deep, muttered chorus of oaths and exclamations in different languages, every time the gold was shovelled across to my side of the table—even the imperturbable croupier dashed his rake on the floor in a (French) fury of astonishment at my success. But one man present preserved his self-possession; and that man was my friend. He came to my side, and whispering in English, begged me to leave the place, satisfied with what I had already gained. I must do him the justice to say, that he repeated his warnings and entreaties several times; and only left me and went away, after I had rejected his advice (it was to all intents and purposes gambling-drunk) in terms which rendered it impossible for him to address me again that night!

Shortly after he had gone, a boar's voice led him me cried:—"Permit me, my dear sir—permit me to restore to their proper place two Napoleons which you have dropped. Wonderful luck, sir!—I pledge you my word of honor as an old soldier, in the course of my long experience in this sort of thing, I never saw such luck as yours!—Never! Go on—*Sacre bleue!*

Turned round and saw, nodding and smiling at me with invertebrate civility, a tall man, dressed in a frogged and braided surcoat. If I had been in my senses, I should have considered him, personally, as being rather a suspicious specimen of an old soldier. He had goggling blood-shot eyes, mangy mustachios, and a broken nose. His voice betrayed a barrack room intonation of the worst order, and he had the dirtiest pair of hands I ever saw—even in France. These little personal peculiarities excused, however, no repelling influence on me. In the mad excitement, the reckless triumph of that moment, I was ready to "fraternize" with anybody who encouraged me in my game. I accepted the old soldier's offered pinch of snuff; clapped him on the back, and swore he was the honestest fellow in the world; the most glorious relic of the Grand Army that I had ever met with. "Go on!" cried my military friend, snapping his fingers in ecstasy.—"Go on, and win! Break the bank—*Mille tonnes!* my gallant English comrade, break the bank!"

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